

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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R 160542Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECDEF WASHDC

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INFO USCINCEUR//ECJ/7//

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S E C R E T KUWAIT 0751

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR US LIAISON OFFICE, KUWAIT (USLOK)

REF: A. USCINCEUR 3008 DTG 100810Z FEB 75

B. KUWAIT 5215 OF DEC 4, 1974

SUMMARY: UNLESS EMBASSY KUWAIT CAN BE AUTHORIZED IMMEDIATELY TO APPROACH GOK WITH A VIEW TO REGULARIZING FUTURE STATUS USLOK, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT USCINCEUR BE GIVEN AUTHORITY AND PROVIDED SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO ASSIGN TDY TO USLOK SOME OR ALL OF MILITARY PERSONNEL REQUESTED REFTEL (B). SUCH ASSIGNMENT AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME CONSIDERED IMPERATIVE IF USG PRESTIGE AND CREDIBILITY WITH GOK RE EXISTING FMS CASES IS TO BE MAINTAINED. AMBASSADOR STOLTZFUS, CURRENTLY OUT OF KUWAIT, HAS CONCURRED IN SUBSTANCE THIS MESSAGE. END SUMMARY.

1. REFTEL (A) IS MOST RECENT IN SERIES OF EXCHANGES BETWEEN EMBASSY KUWAIT, USCINCEUR INTERESTED WASHINGTON AGENCIES CONCERNING NEED TO PROVIDE EARLIEST POSSIBLE SUPPORT TO BELEAGUERED USLOK STAFF. IT HAS BECOME CLEAR THAT SOME ASSISTANCE FROM USCINCEUR IS AVAILABLE, BUT THAT BUDGETARY AND OTHER PROBLEMS PRESENT OBSTACLES TO ASSIGNMENT OF PERSONNEL UNTIL FORMAL AGREEMENT IS REACHED WITH GOK RE FUTURE US/KUWAITI DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP. IN INTERIM, USCINCEUR HAS SUGGESTED PERSONNEL COULD BE ASSIGNED

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ON TDY BASIS PROVIDED GOK WILLING TO REIMBURSE EXPENSES INVOLVED.

2. AS PREVIOUSLY INDICATED, AMBASSADOR STRONGLY SUPPORTS THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF A MILITARY MISSION (USLOK) IN KUWAIT, AND EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF OUR PRESENT MILITARY RELATIONSHIP BEYOND BEING A PASSIVE SUPPLIER OF EQUIPMENT. HOWEVER, THIS IS A POLICY DECISION WHICH APPARENTLY HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED. UNTIL IT IS, FURTHER ACTIONS WHICH CAN BE CONSTRUED AS IMPLYING COMMITMENTS BEYOND THOSE ESSENTIAL TO THE SERVICING OF EXISTING COMMITMENTS PROBABLY SHOULD BE AVOIDED.

3. THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IS TO ENSURE THAT THE USG EFFECTIVELY MEETS THE COMMITMENTS ALREADY CONTRACTED FOR E.G., THE DELIVERY TO THE GOK OF EQUIPMENT AND ADVICE UNDER THE TOW, IHAWK AND A-4 FMS CASES. THIS CANNOT BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH EXISTING USLOK PERSONNEL. UNLESS URGENT ACTION IS TAKEN, USG PRESTIGE AND CREDIBILITY WILL SUFFER.

4. IF THE EMBASSY CANNOT BE AUTHORIZED IMMEDIATELY TO APPROACH THE GOK WITH A VIEW TO REGULARIZING THE STATUS OF USLOK, IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT USCINCEUR BE PROVIDED SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO ASSIGN THOSE MILITARY PERSONNEL LISTED IN REFTEL (B) TO KUWAIT ON A TDY BASIS AND AT USG EXPENSE TO ASSIST USLOK PENDING A DECISION RE OUR FUTURE COMMITMENT. THE SMALL ADDITIONAL COST INVOLVED TO THE USG WOULD SEEM JUSTIFIED SINCE IT WOULD BUY TIME FOR US TO CONTINUE CONSIDERATION OF OUR OPTIONS WHILE MAINTAINING THE GOODWILL OF THE GOK AS WE MOVE TOWARDS A MORE PERMANENT RELATIONSHIP. THE TDY ASSIGNMENT OF AT LEAST THE SUPPLY OFFICER (PARA 8-G-2) AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (PARA 8-G-3) MENTIONED IN REFTEL (B) ARE DEEMED ESSENTIAL TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS.

5. A MORE COMPLETE RESPONSE WILL BE MADE TO REFTEL (A) FOLLOWING THE RETURN OF AMBASSADOR STOLTZFUS TO KUWAIT AND DISCUSSIONS WITH COL CANHAM OF USCINCEUR ON FEB 18.
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